

R E M A R K S

In the Office Action, the Examiner finalized a restriction requirement, rejected claim 20 under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, rejected claims 1-3, 7-10, 12, 15 and 16 under 35 USC §102(e), and 4-6, 11, 13 and 14 under 35 USC §103(a). These objections and rejections are fully traversed below. In addition, the Examiner also allowed claims 27-54 and found claims 17-19 and 21 to recited allowable subject matter.

Claims 1, 17, 18, 20 and 21 have been amended. Claim 19 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Withdrawn claims 22-26 have also been canceled from the application. In addition, new claims 55-57 have been added to the application. Claims 1-18, 20, 21 and 27-57 are pending.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claim 20 under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claim 20 has been amended to clarify the subject matter regarded as the invention. It is respectfully requested that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of claim 20.

In the Office Action, the Examiner also rejected claims 1-3, 7-10, 12, 15 and 16 under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by Bolken et al. (U.S. Patent Publication 2004/0229401); rejected claims 4-6 under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Bolken et al. in view of Sakaguchi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,677,183); and rejected claims 11-13 and 14 under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Bolken et al. in view of Bolken et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,444,501). These rejections are fully traversed below.

To expedite a prosecution of this application, Applicant has amended claims 1, 17, 18 and 21 to conform the application to the subject matter that the Examiner stated was allowable. Namely, in the Office Action, the Examiner stated that claim 17-19 and 21 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claims 17, 18 and 21 have been amended to place these claims in independent form. In addition, the limitations previously recited in claim 19 have been included in claim 1, and claim 19 has been canceled from the application. Accordingly, claims 1, 17, 18, 20 and 21 are in condition for allowance. In addition, new claims 55-57 depend from claim 16 or claim 1 and, therefore, are also in condition for allowance.

Thus, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner withdraw the rejections under 35 USC §§ 102, 103.

It is submitted that the application is in condition or allowance. Reconsideration of the application and an early Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

If there are any issues remaining which the Examiner believes could be resolved through either a Supplemental Response or an Examiner's Amendment, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Applicant hereby petitions for an extension of time which may be required to maintain the pendency of this case, and any required fee for such extension or any further fee required in connection with the filing of this Amendment is to be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0388.

Respectfully submitted,
BEYER WEAVER & THOMAS, LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Douglass Thomas', written in a cursive style.

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